

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for treating or preventing an apoptosis-related disease wherein said method comprises administering an effective amount of a protein belonging to the MK family.

2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said protein belonging to the MK family is midkine.

3. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said apoptosis-related disease is cardiopathy.

4. The method, according to claim 3, wherein said protein belonging to the MK family is midkine.

5. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said apoptosis-related disease is nephropathy.

6. The method, according to claim 5, wherein said protein belonging to the MK family is midkine.

7. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said apoptosis-related disease is hepatopathy.

8. The method, according to claim 7, wherein said protein belonging to the MK family is midkine. <

9. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said apoptosis-related disease is a neurodegenerative disease.